

1. (Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing having a retention structure, the housing having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing; and

a plurality of contacts extending through said housing, each said contact including:

A1 a medial section;

a mounting portion extending from one end of said medial section and comprising a mounting tab, the mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings and the housing engaging the mounting tab so that the contact is retained by the housing; and

a compressive mating portion extending from another end of said medial section and having a distal end,

wherein said retention structure of said housing engages said distal ends of said compressive mating portions of said contacts to preload said contacts.

16. (Amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

a housing, the housing having a plurality of openings defined therein and extending through the housing;

X2 a plurality of compression contacts extending through said housing and exhibiting a preload, each of the contacts comprising a mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings; and

A2
a plurality of fusible elements, each secured to a respective one of the mounting tabs so that the fusible element secures the associated contact to the housing.

- A3
25. (Amended) A method of making an electrical connector, comprising the steps of:
- providing a housing;
 - inserting a plurality of compression contacts into said housing;
 - securing a fusible element to each of said contacts; and
 - preloading said contacts.

Please add the following new claims 34-37:

- B1
- A4
34. (New) An electrical connector, comprising:
- a housing having a retention structure, the housing structure having a plurality of channels, a plurality of recesses, and a plurality of openings formed therein, each of the openings extending between a respective one of the channels and a respective one of the recesses; and
 - a plurality of contacts each mounted in a respective one of the channels, each of the contacts comprising:
 - a medial section;
 - a mounting portion extending from one end of the medial section and comprising a mounting tab, the mounting tab extending through a respective one of the openings; and

m/ a compressive mating portion extending from another end of said medial section and having a distal end, wherein the retention structure of said housing engages the distal ends of the compressive mating portions of the contacts to preload the contacts.

A4
C1
35. (New) The electrical connector of claim 34, further comprising a plurality of fusible elements, each of the fusible elements being secured to the mounting portion of a respective one of the contacts.

36. (New) The electrical connector of claim 35, wherein each of the fusible elements is positioned at least in part within a respective one of the recesses.

37. (New) The electrical connector of claim 35, wherein the housing comprises a plurality of projections each located within a respective one of the openings, each projection securely engaging a respective one of the mounting tabs.

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1, 16, and 25 have been amended, and claim 14 has been canceled in this response. New claims 34-37 have been added to further define the scope of the invention. Claims 1-37 will therefore be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

The drawings have been objected to in the Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not